***Gorbachev: Destroyer of Worlds, Creator of Life***

Mikhail Gorbachev is a man known for bringing about policies in the Soviet Union in the 1980’s to try and help fix their economy during the Cold War and is also known for being a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, but he is most noted for being the destroyer of Soviet Russia, and the creator of many new, free nations in Eastern Europe. Gorbachev was the leader of a Communist nation and his goal was to try and convert the largest nation on earth geographically from one end of the political spectrum to the other, an almost unattainable task. Gorbachev is an inspiring man, but his focus for Russia was misguided and he should be to blame for Russia’s loss in the Cold War.

One of the policies Gorbachev brought about during the Cold War is Perestroika, an economic reform set in action in 1986. The new policy of "reconstruction" was introduced in an attempt to subdue the economic stagnation by creating a dependable and effective mechanism for accelerating economic and social progress in Soviet Russia. The full intent of Gorbachev was to take his country from one end of the political spectrum, and move it to the exact opposite end! In the Soviet Union, reactions were mixed. Reform policies rocked the foundation of entrenched traditional power bases in the party, economy, and society but did not replace them entirely. Long-suppressed economic and social grievances led to clashes, strikes, and growing crime rates. Perestroika worked on behalf of Gorbachev in the sense that he had changed the political system in Russia, but it also made it so that the people of Russia became angered.

The next policy Gorbachev brought along to try and help solve economic and political problems in Russia was Glasnost,  the policy of maximum exposure and transparency in the activities of all government institutions in the Soviet Union, together with freedom of information. This was brought about in the latter half of the 1980’s. The main goal of the glasnost policy was to allow freedom of speech and press in Soviet Russia, which would open up the government to criticism and allow for dissolution of government. This also created a greater amount of freedom within Soviet media. Gorbachev was both giving the people what they wanted, and under the table he was slowly changing the course of history in the Soviet, pushing them ever so carefully into the hands of democracy and free market economy. In all, the positive view of Soviet life which had long been presented to the public by the official media was being swiftly dismantled, and the pessimistic aspects of life in the Soviet Union were brought into the spotlight.

Gorbachev is more to blame for the fall of the Soviet Union in the Cold War than anyone else, because he worked out different strategies to dissolute the USSR for economic and political freedom. He pretty much tried to lose the Cold War because he wanted to be more like the enemy, and in the end he got what he wanted. Different parts of the USSR began to fight for independence and some even broke free of the bonds of the USSR and became their own nations. Firstly to dissolve problems between the US and the USSR, President Ronald Reagan signed the INF Treaty with Mikhail, which stands for Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. This created a bond of understanding between Gorbachev and Reagan, and thus began the dissolution of the USSR. After that treaty was signed, the USSR broke up into many different nations, the largest being Russia, and everybody won. The only losing party was the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) who was opposed to Gorbachev's reform program and the new union treaty that he had negotiated which decentralized much of the central government's power to the republics.

Therefore, Mikhail Gorbachev is mostly to blame for the loss of the Cold War for Russia, but he is also to thank for gaining respect worldwide and for giving political freedom to a large number of small nations in Eastern Europe. Without him, communism could have won, and where would we be today? In a world with a majority of communistic nations, we would not have the rights and freedoms we do today, so people should give thanks to Mikhail Gorbachev for losing the Cold War. Russia may not be a fully democratic nation, but people there nowadays probably live much better lives than they would have if Mikhail hadn’t dissolute the Soviet Union.

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